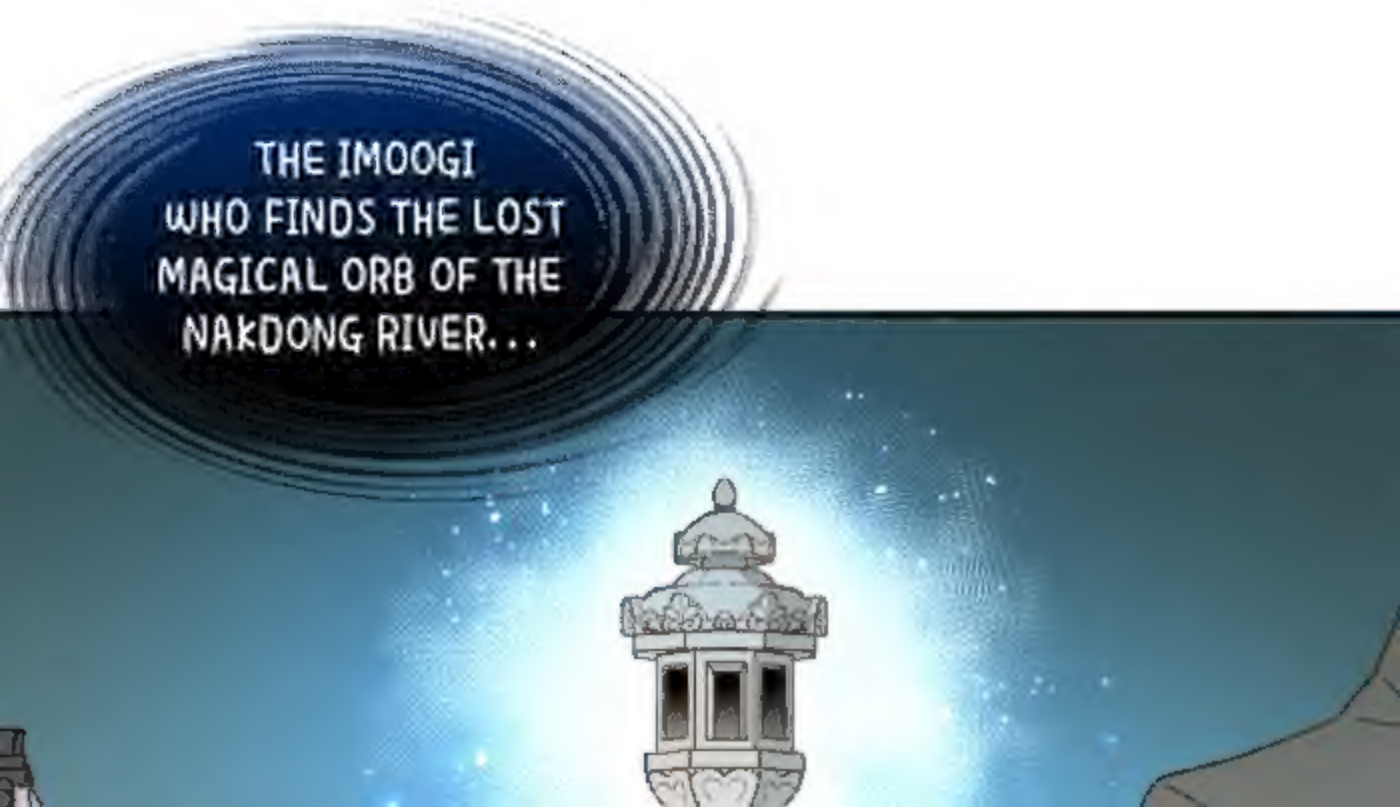
How to become a Dragon

- EPISODE 144 -



...AND PLACES IT HERE IS THE FINALIST OF THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON EXAM.

NOW...
FWSHHH
...I WISH YOU LUCK.

I KNEW IT...
ALL OF THESE IMOOGIS WEREN'T CALLED HERE JUST TO BE SPECTATORS.
IT'S BETTER TO HAVE LOTS OF SETS OF HANDS AND EYES IN A TREASURE HUNT...

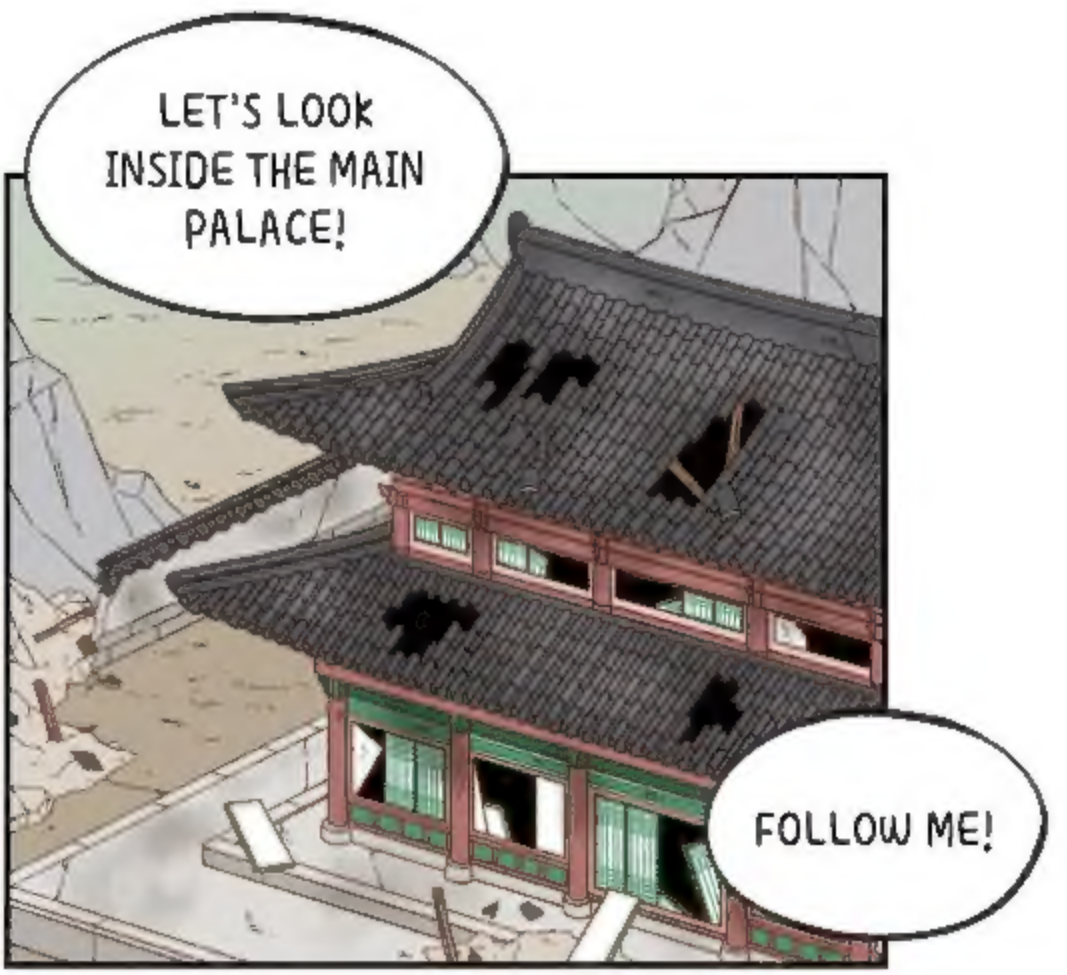
IF ANYONE FINDS IT...
...THEY'LL GIVE IT TO THE EXAMINEE OF THEIR CHOICE UNDER SOME CONDITIONS.

...!
DOESN'T THAT MAKE THINGS UNFAIR FOR US?
STARTLE
EVERYONE IS ON THE OTHER TEAM.

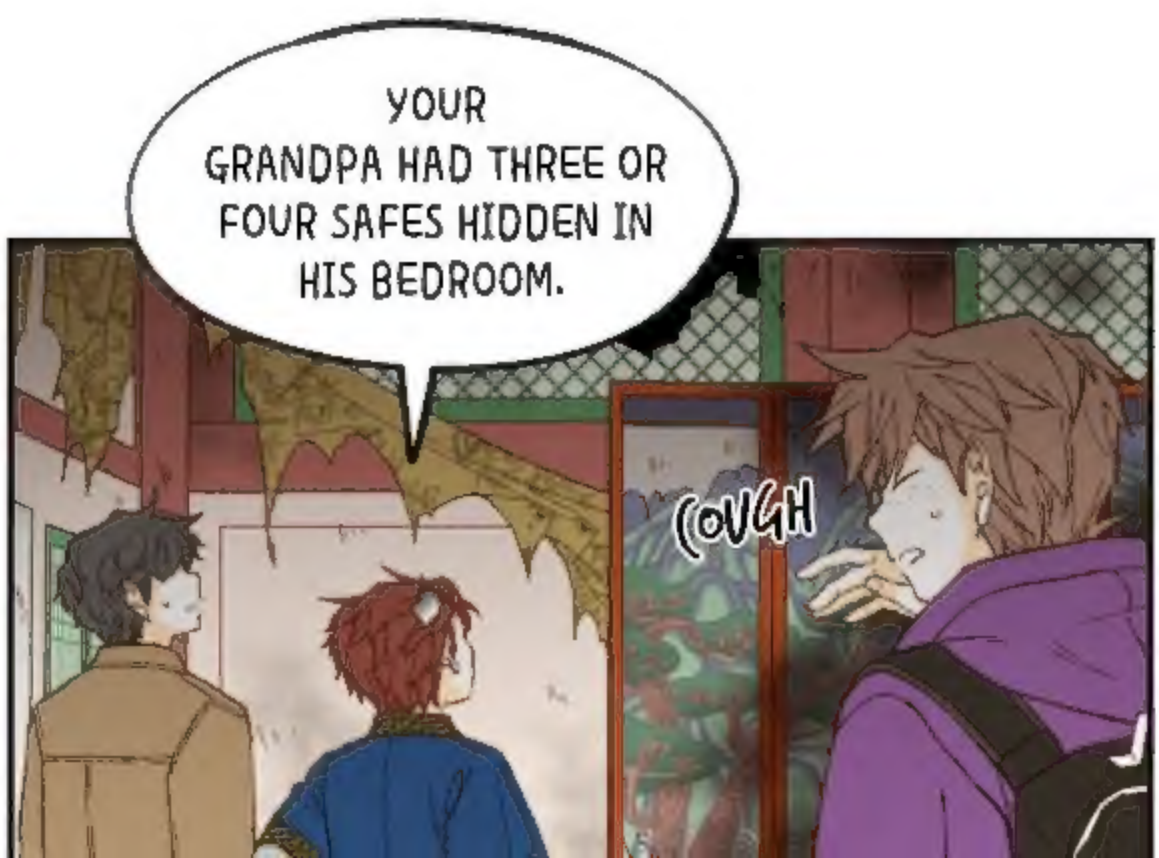
STOP GETTING SCARED!
THERE ARE FOUR OF US

FOR NOW!
SMACK
GUH!

IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE HAS STARTED LOOKING.
WE SHOULD ASSIGN SECTIONS FOR US TO SEARCH AND GET A MOVE ON, RIGHT?


LET'S LOOK INSIDE THE MAIN PALACE!
FOLLOW ME!

JEEZ...
THIS PLACE IS BASICALLY AN ABANDONED HOUSE...
IS THIS LIKE A BEDROOM OR SOMETHING?


YOUR GRANDPA HAD THREE OR FOUR SAFES HIDDEN IN HIS BEDROOM.
COUGH

THE MAGICAL ORB WOULD HAVE TO BE HERE, RIGHT?

DO YOU THINK THE DRAGON KING DIDN'T THINK OF THAT?
...
THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF SECRET STORAGE SPACE!
A SECRET STORAGE PLACE? WHAT IS THIS, A BUNKER?

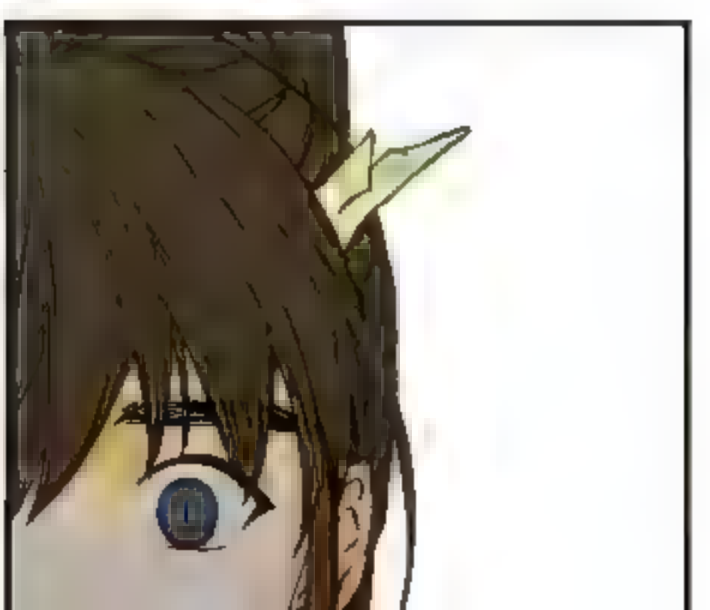
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BARI?
PEEK
THAT'S A SIDE ROOM.

A SIDE ROOM...?
STEP

IT'S A ROOM WHERE THE SERVANTS REST.

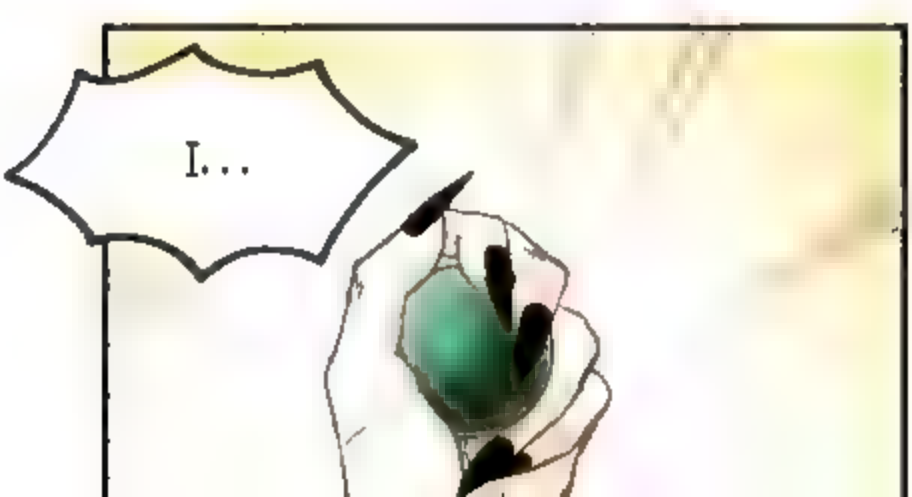
IT WAS PROBABLY USED BY THE ONES WHO WORKED IN THIS AREA.

BROKEN
BUT EXPENSIVE
POTTERY...
SILK SHEETS...



WOULD A SERVANTS' ROOM BE SO LUXURIOUS?

THIS IS...


I...

I FOUND IT!

WHAT...?
ALREADY?!
DASH
LEMME SEE!
IT'S A REAL MAGICAL ORB?

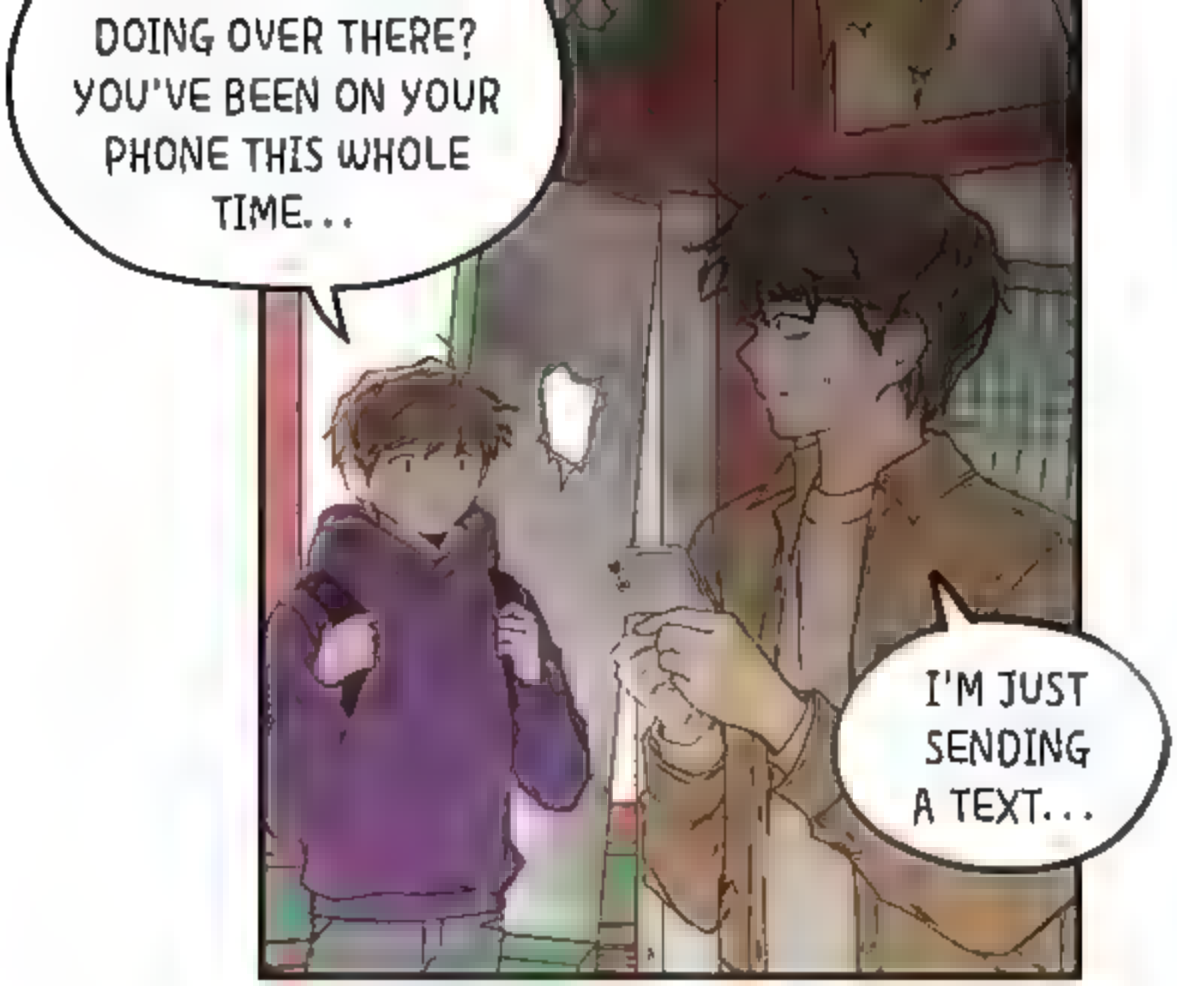
LOOK! IT'S REALLY THE MAGICAL ORB!
SEE THIS MYSTICAL SHINE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? THIS IS JUST A JADE ORB!
HMPH
PHEW

DIDN'T
I TELL YOU TO BE
FOR REAL?!

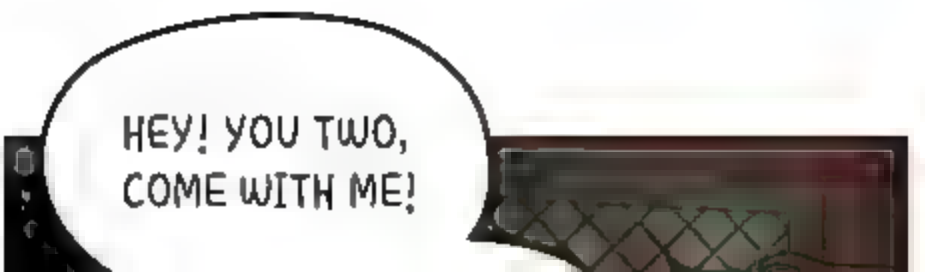
THERE'S NO WAY
IT WOULD BE FOUND
SO QUICKLY...
HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU

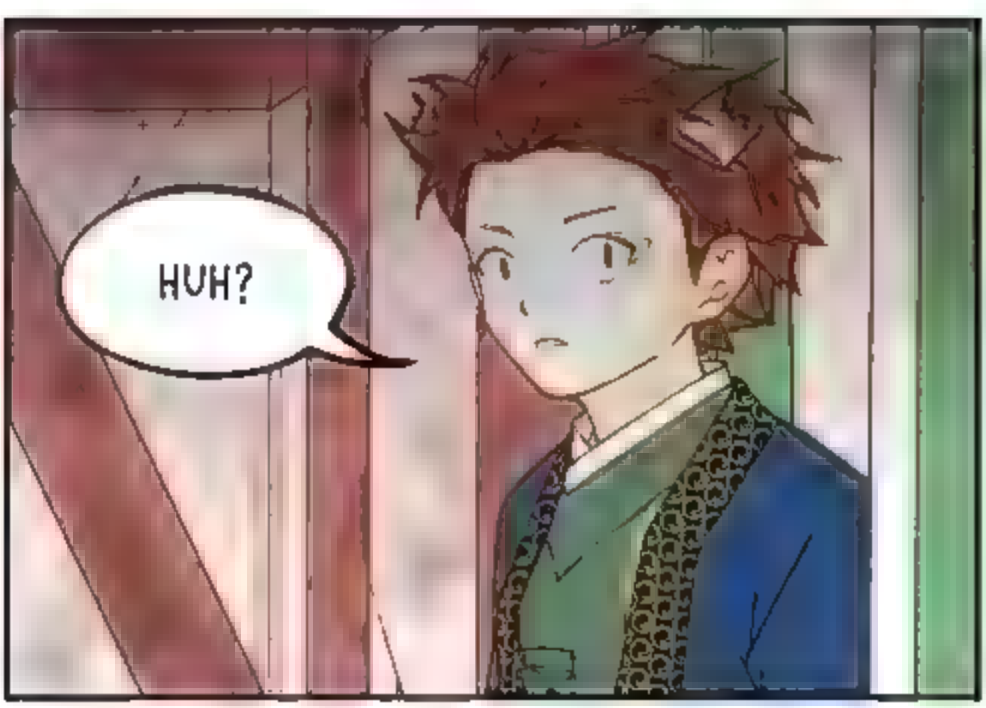

DOING OVER THERE? YOU'VE BEEN ON YOUR PHONE THIS WHOLE TIME...
I'M JUST SENDING A TEXT...

I WAS JUST WONDERING IF SOMETHING HAPPENED...
TO YEONGNO AND SUN, I MEAN.
IT HAS TO BE A BIG DEAL FOR THEM TO NOT SHOW UP TO THE EXAM...

WHEN
I WAS ABOVE WATER,
I THOUGHT I'D GET SIGNAL
ONCE I CLIMBED
THE WALL,
BUT NO LUCK...
HE'S
RIGHT...
YEONGNO WAS
SO DESPERATE...


HEY! YOU TWO,
COME WITH ME!

LET'S SEARCH THE OTHER ROOMS TOO!

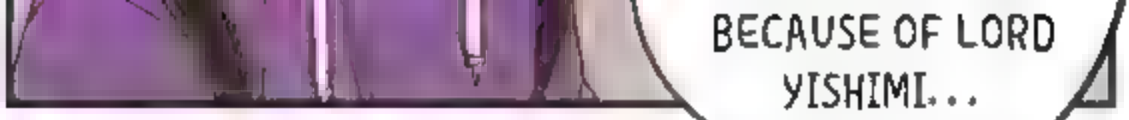

HUH?

WHAT'S LORD YISHIMI DOING?

WHAT'S THAT

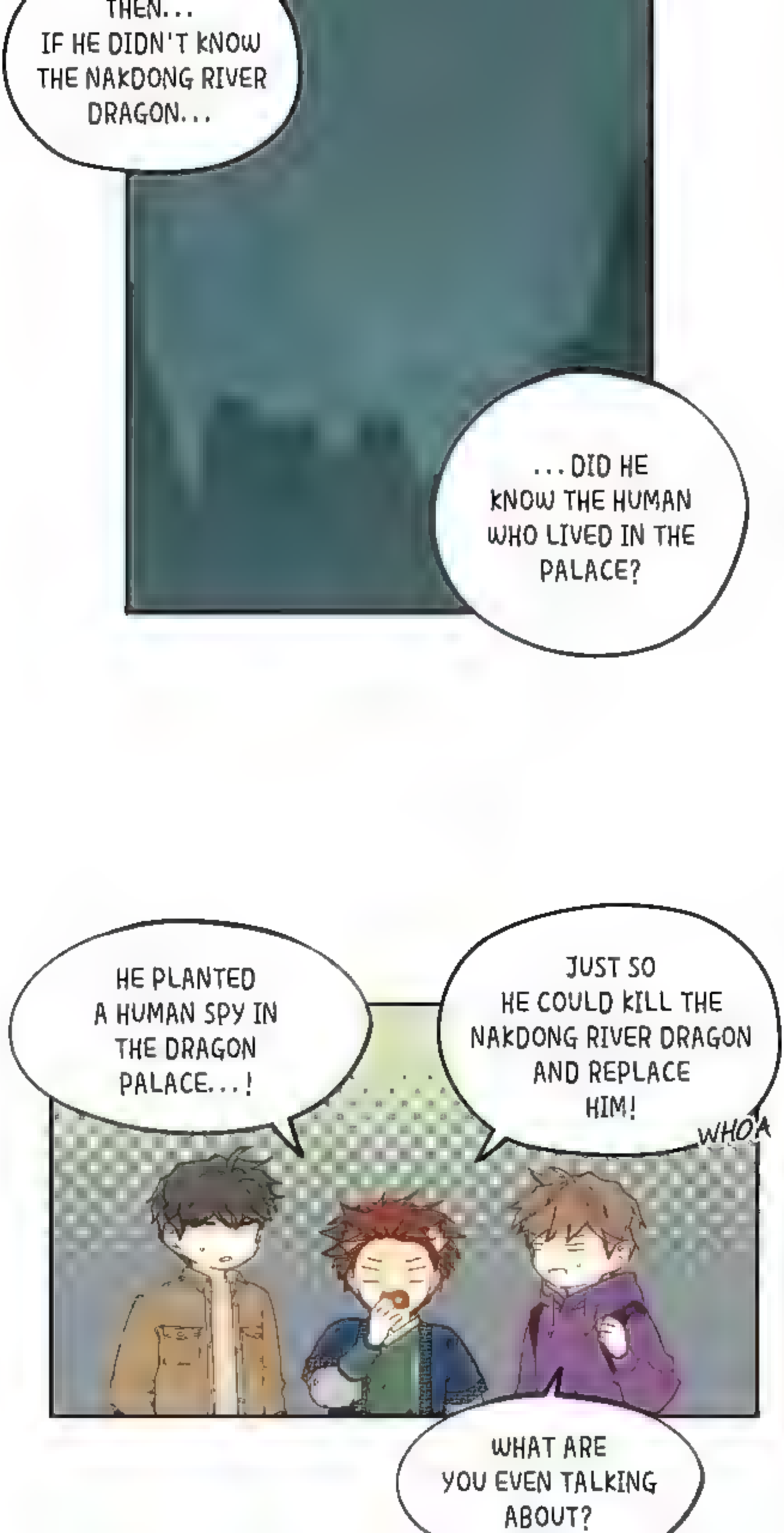
GUY UP TO?
I-IS HE MEDITATING OR SOMETHING?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

REMEMBER WHAT THE SOUTHERN DRAGON KING SAID EARLIER?
SHE SAID THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON DIED

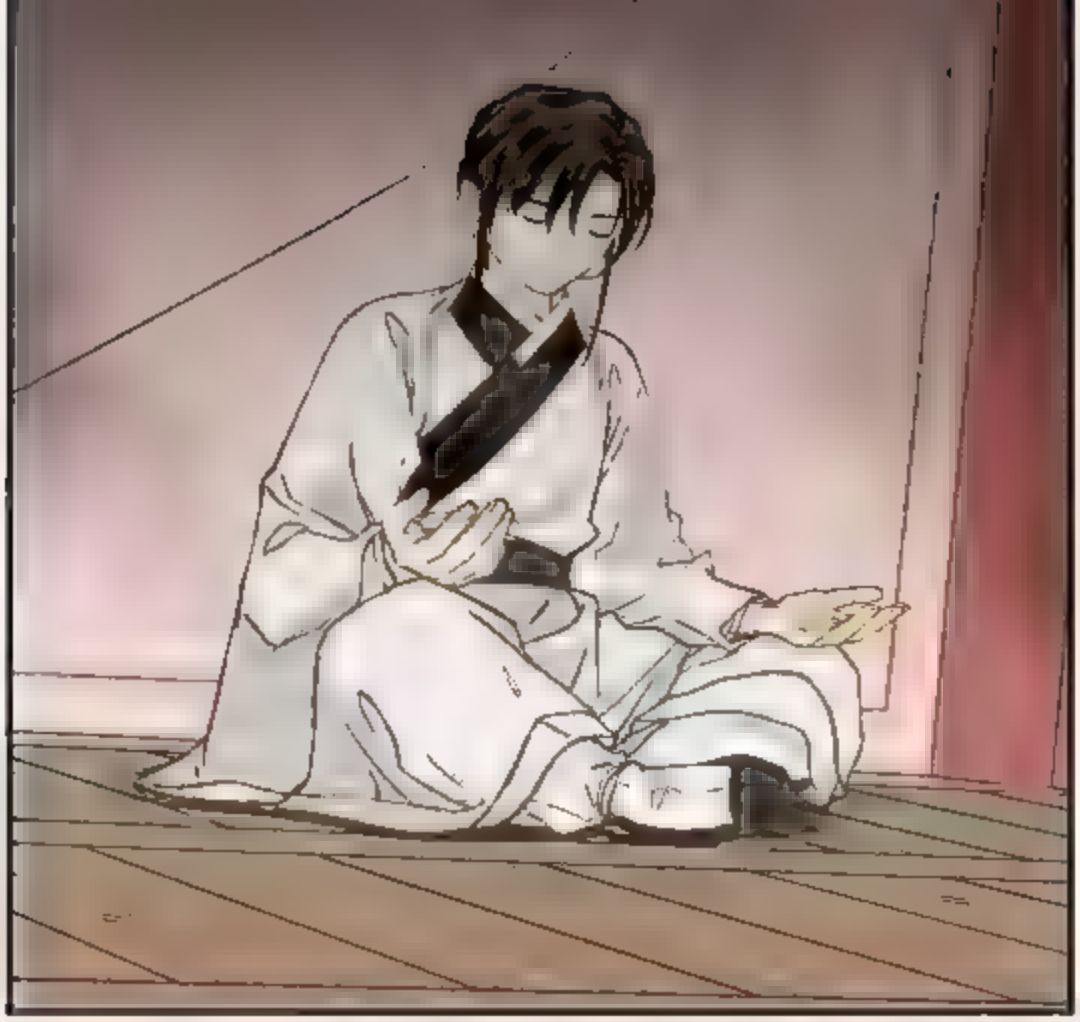

BECAUSE OF LORD YISHIMI...

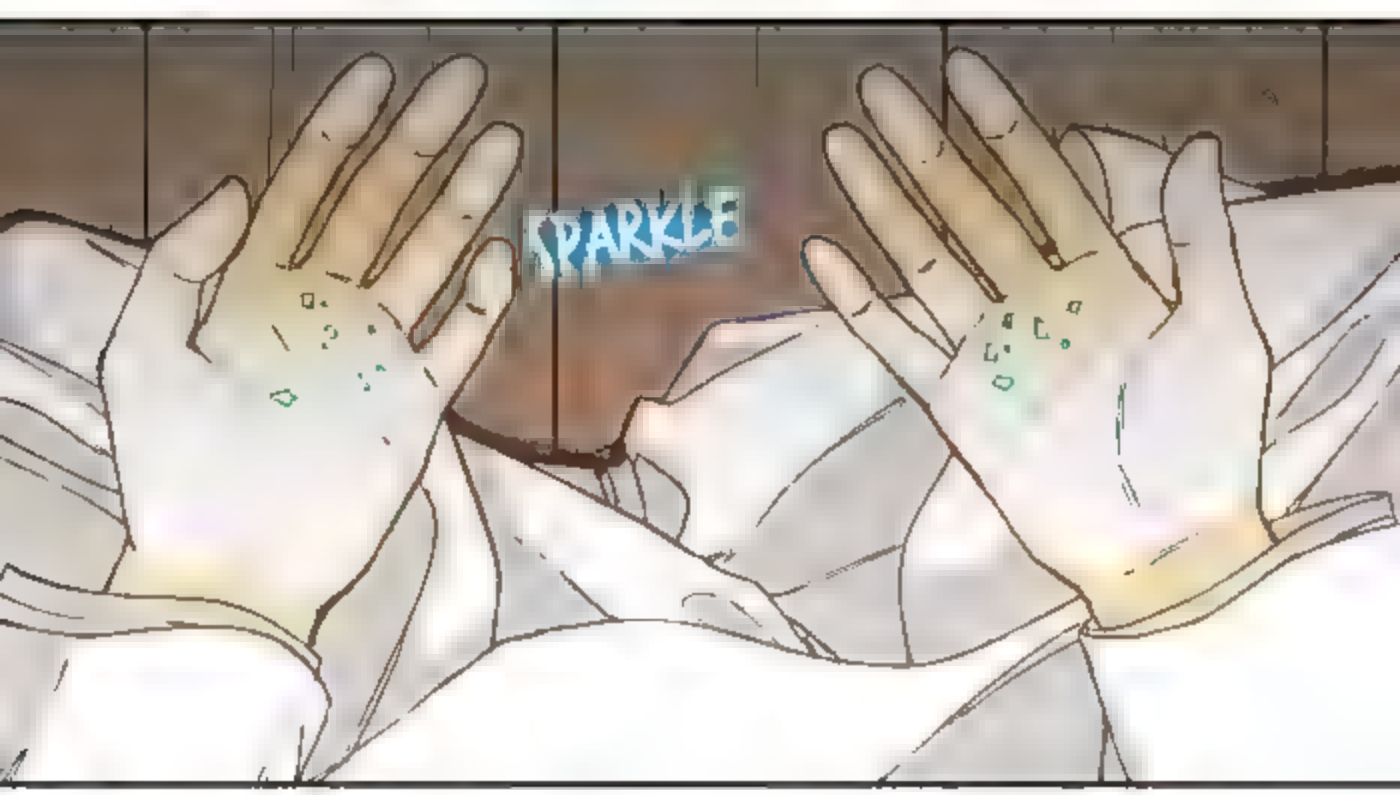
WHAT DID THAT MEAN?
THERE'S NO WAY HE POLLUTED THE NAKDONG RIVER.
DID HE KNOW THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON?

THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON AND LORD YISHIMI TRAINED IN TOTALLY DIFFERENT PLACES.
LORD YISHIMI WAS AT MOUNT WOLAK, AND THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON WAS AT MOUNT TAEBAEK
THEY DIDN'T TRAIN TOGETHER, SO THEY PROBABLY DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER...

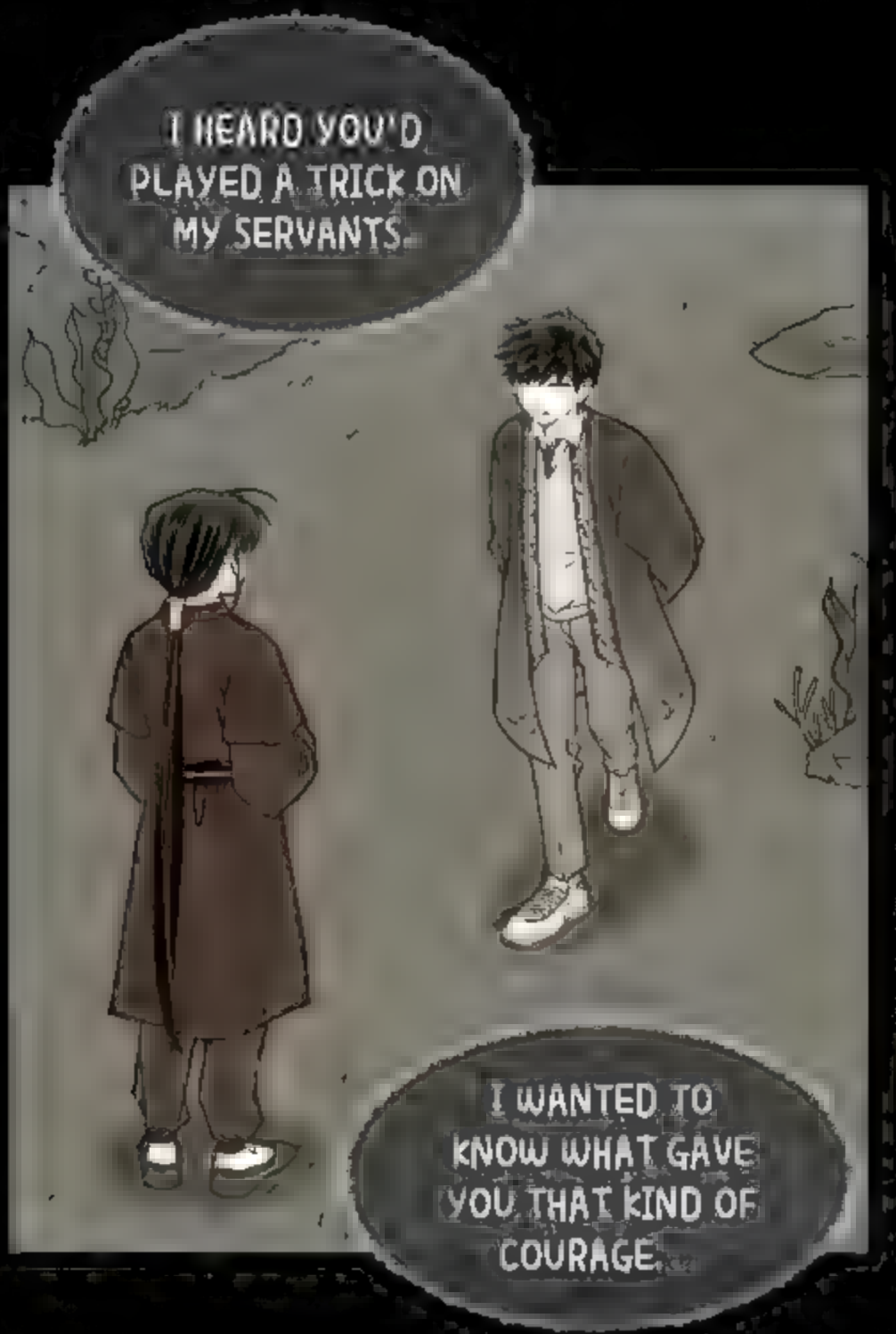

THEN...
IF HE DIDN'T KNOW THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON...
...DID HE KNOW THE HUMAN WHO LIVED IN THE PALACE?
HE PLANTED A HUMAN SPY IN THE DRAGON PALACE...!
JUST SO HE COULD KILL THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON AND REPLACE HIM!
WHO'A
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?

WHY WOULD THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON TAKE IN A HUMAN UNLESS SOMEONE PUT THE HUMAN THERE ON PURPOSE?
HE PROBABLY JUST SAVED A HUMAN WHO WAS DROWNING BECAUSE HE FELT BAD.
LETS-GO
DO YOU THINK THE NAKDONG RIVER PALACE IS SOME KIND OF SHELTER FOR DROWNING VICTIMS?




SPARKLE

WHAT IS IT?


I HEARD YOU'D PLAYED A TRICK ON MY SERVANTS.
I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT GAVE YOU THAT KIND OF COURAGE.

...AND WHAT YOUR PURPOSE FOR IT WAS...
...BUT MORE THAN THAT...
...I WANTED TO KNOW HOW A MERE IMOOGI...
CRUSH
DARED

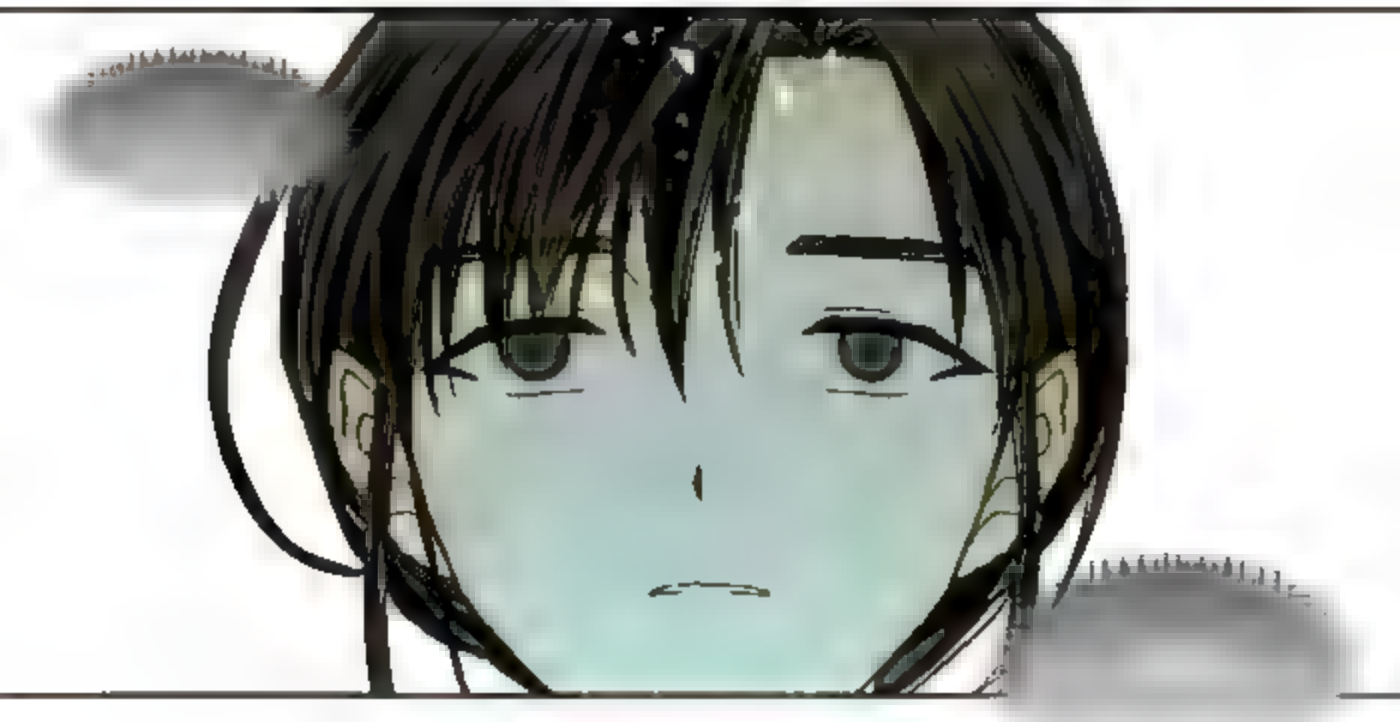
CREATURE...

...OF A DRAGON KING.

FWOOSH!

SHHHH

FLASH



...THER.
BROTHER!
BROTHER!

BROTHER!

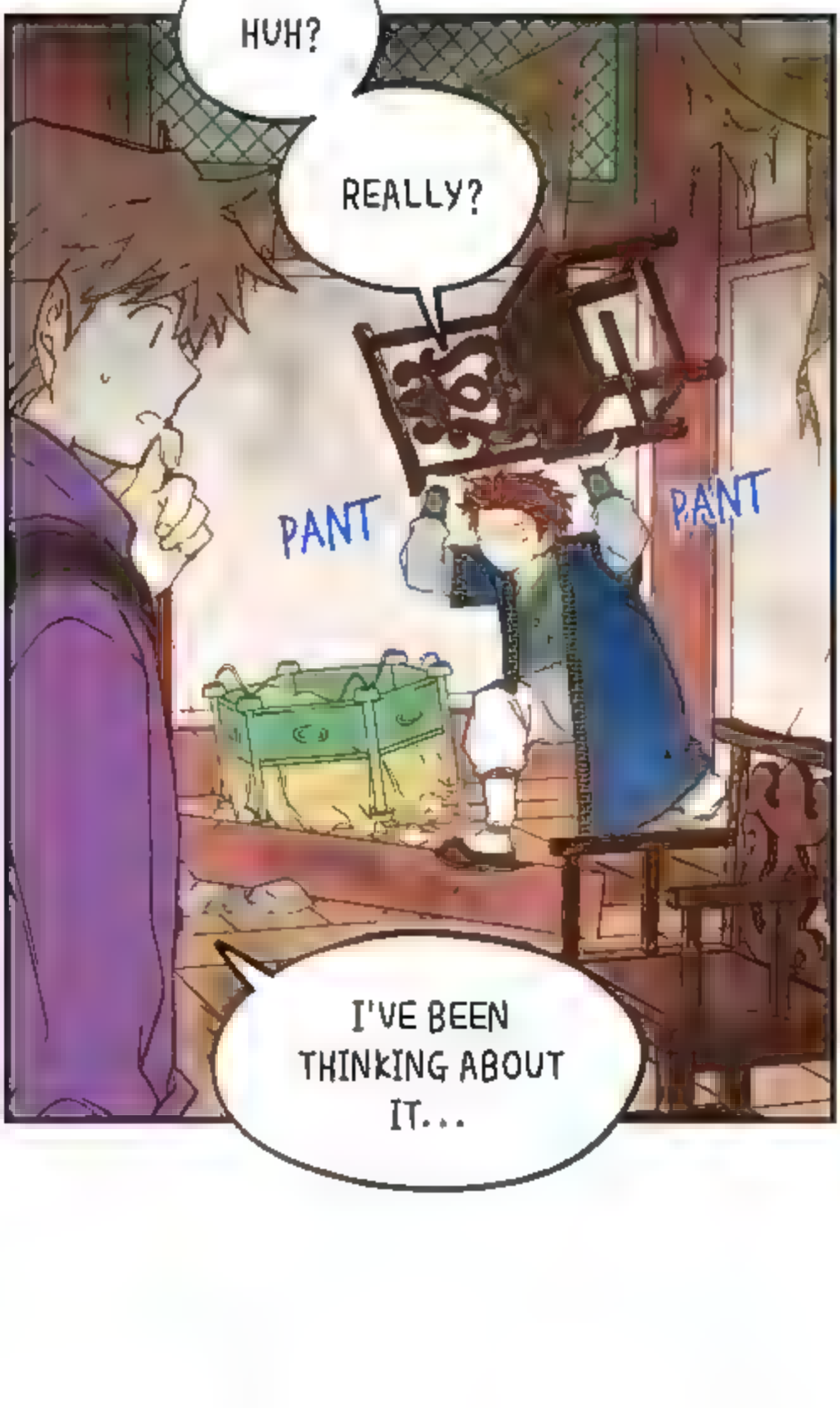
WRINKLE

SHATTER

FWSHHH
IS THIS AS FAR AS I CAN GO...
...SINCE I AM NOT ITS OWNER?

IF THE SOUTHERN DRAGON KING HERSELF SEARCHED THE PALACE...
SQUEEZE

...THE ORB CANNOT BE HERE.
THAT MEANS...
...
DO YOU THINK MAYBE THE ORB ISN'T IN THE PALACE?

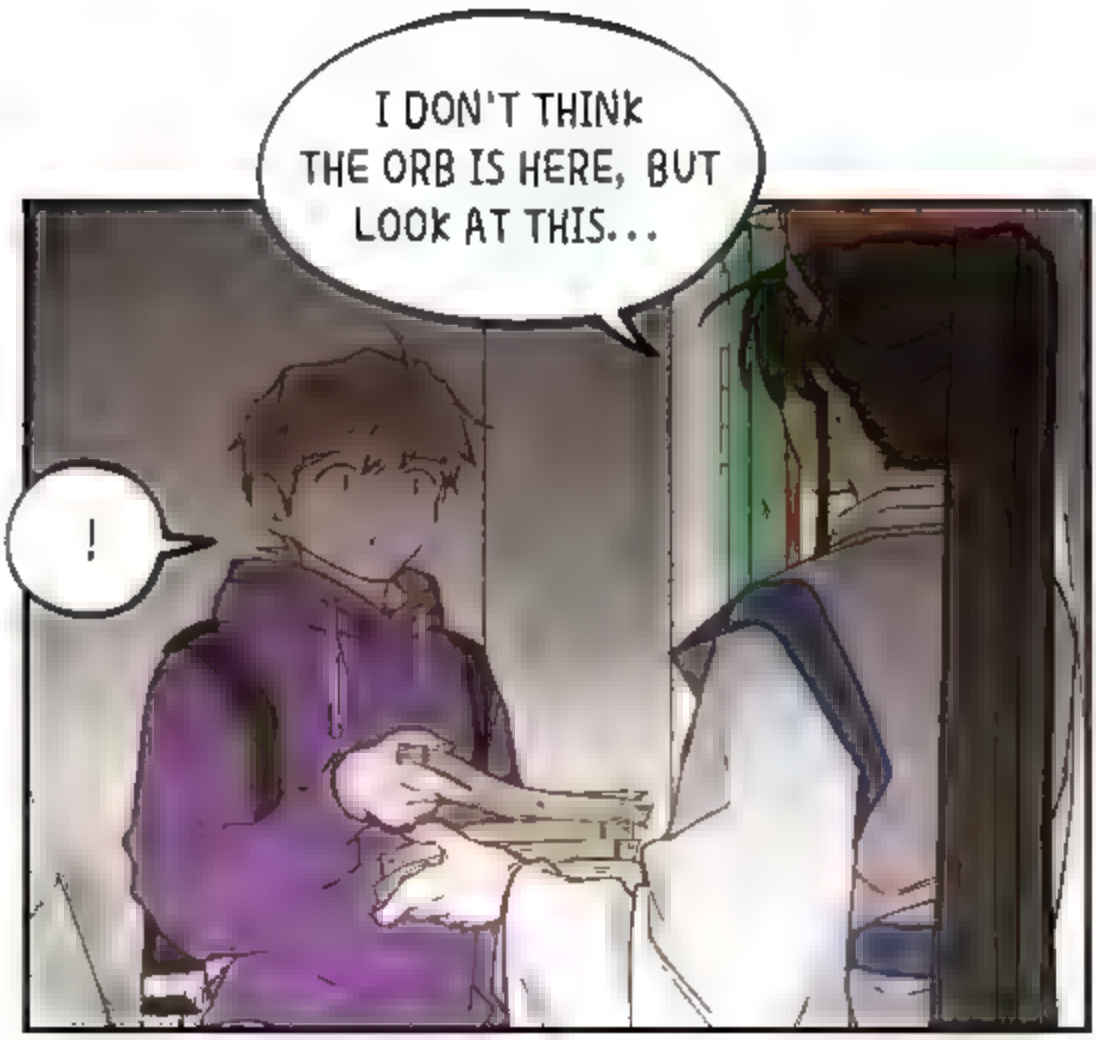

HUH?
REALLY?
PANT
PANT
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT...

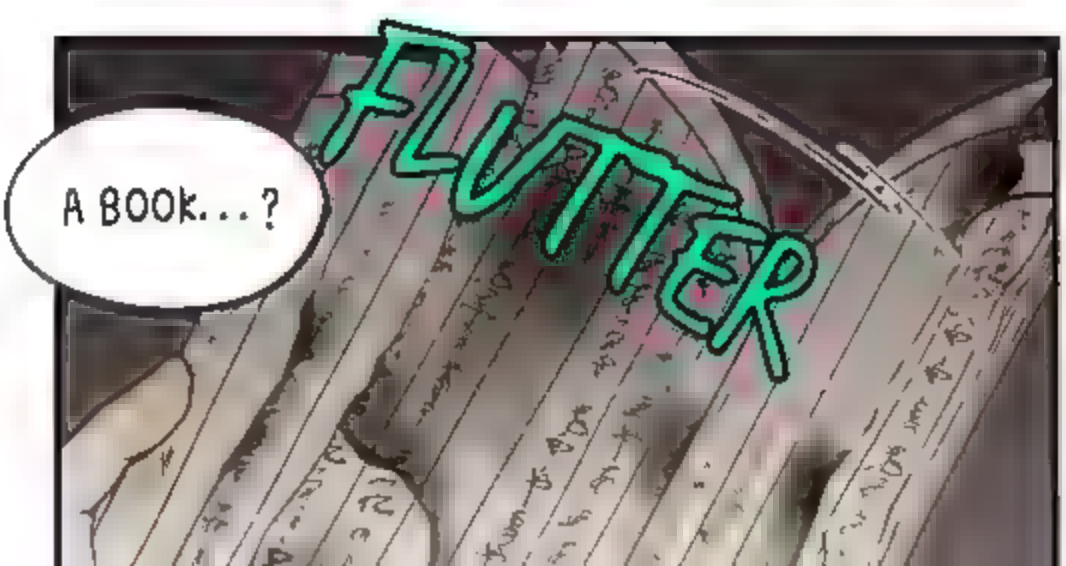
THERE'S A REASON SO MANY IMOOGIS WERE BROUGHT HERE.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE TO SEARCH THE ENTIRE NAKDONG RIVER?

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
SHOUT
PEEK
THE NAKDONG RIVER IS HUGE. WHEN WOULD WE EVER GET DONE SEARCHING?!

YOUNG!
WAVE
COME HERE FOR A SECOND...!
WAVE

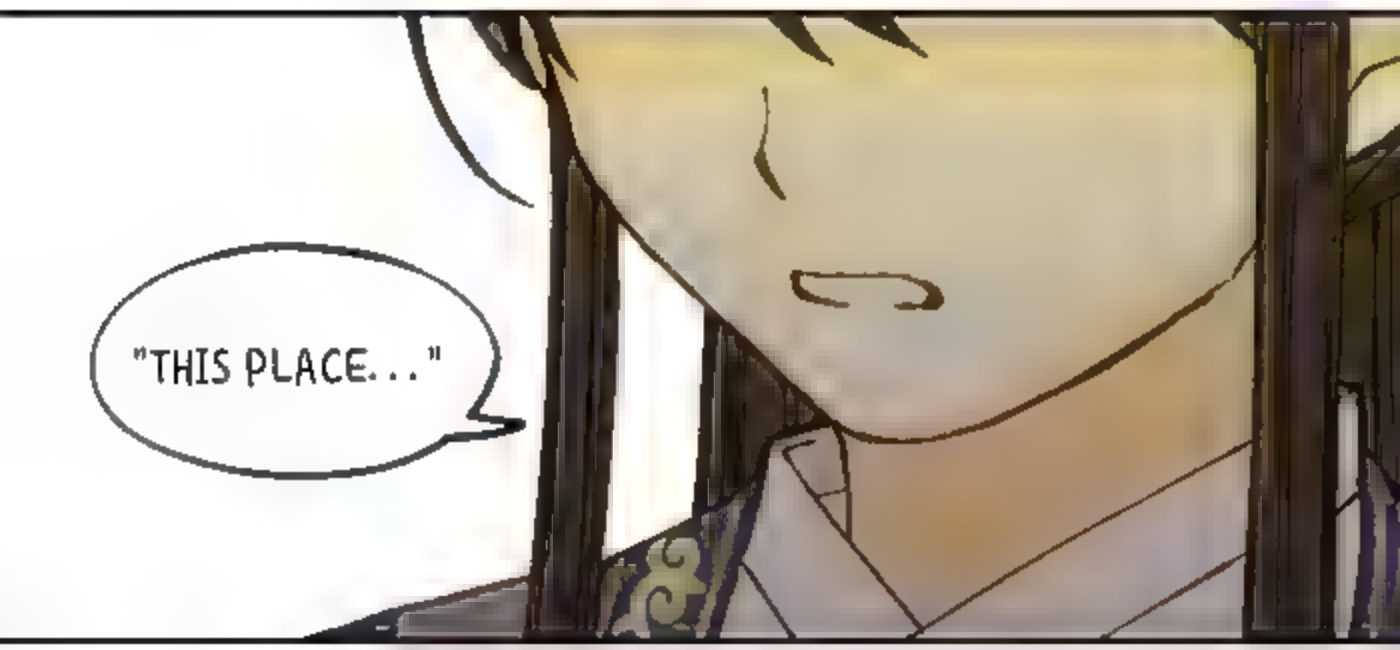
WHY DO YOU KEEP LOOKING THROUGH THE SERVANTS' ROOM?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THE MAGICAL ORB WOULD BE HERE?

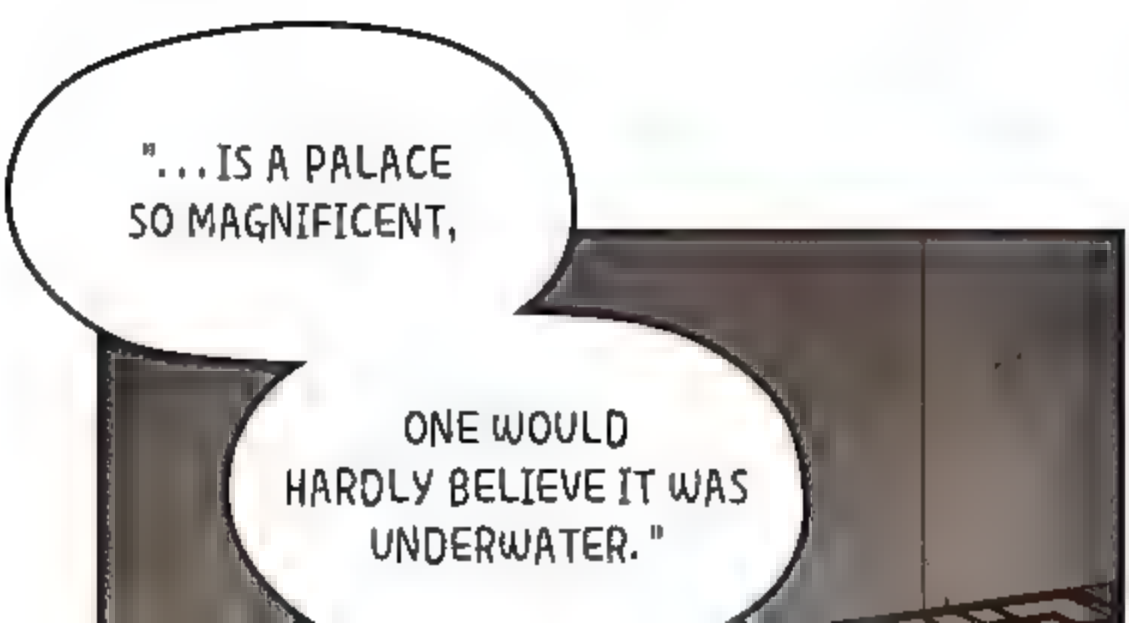

I DON'T THINK THE ORB IS HERE, BUT LOOK AT THIS...
!


FLUTTER
A BOOK...?

IT'S WRITTEN IN KOREAN...

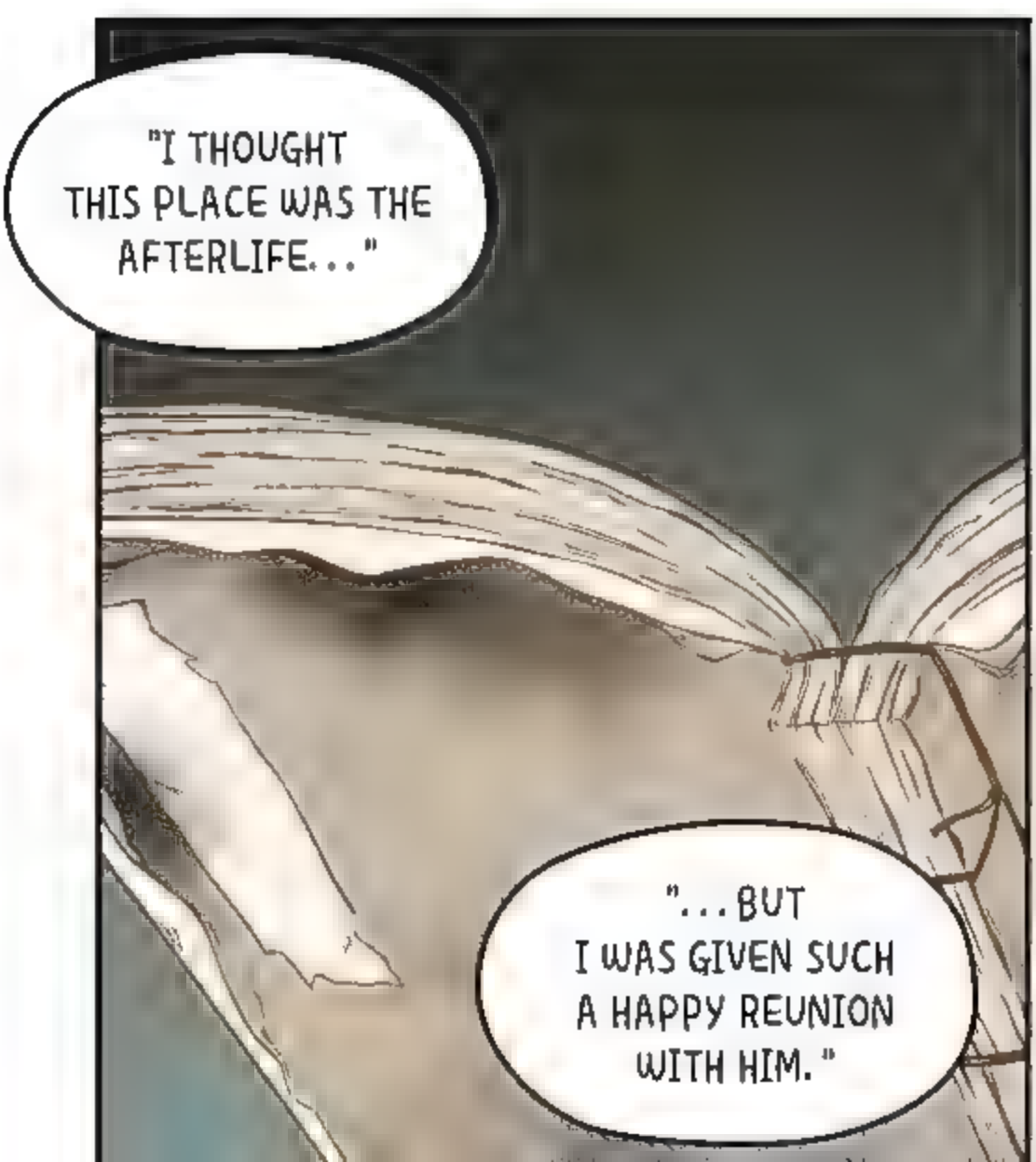
IT'S TORN AND BURNT IN SOME PARTS SO IT'S NOT WHOLE...
...BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS WRITTEN HERE.

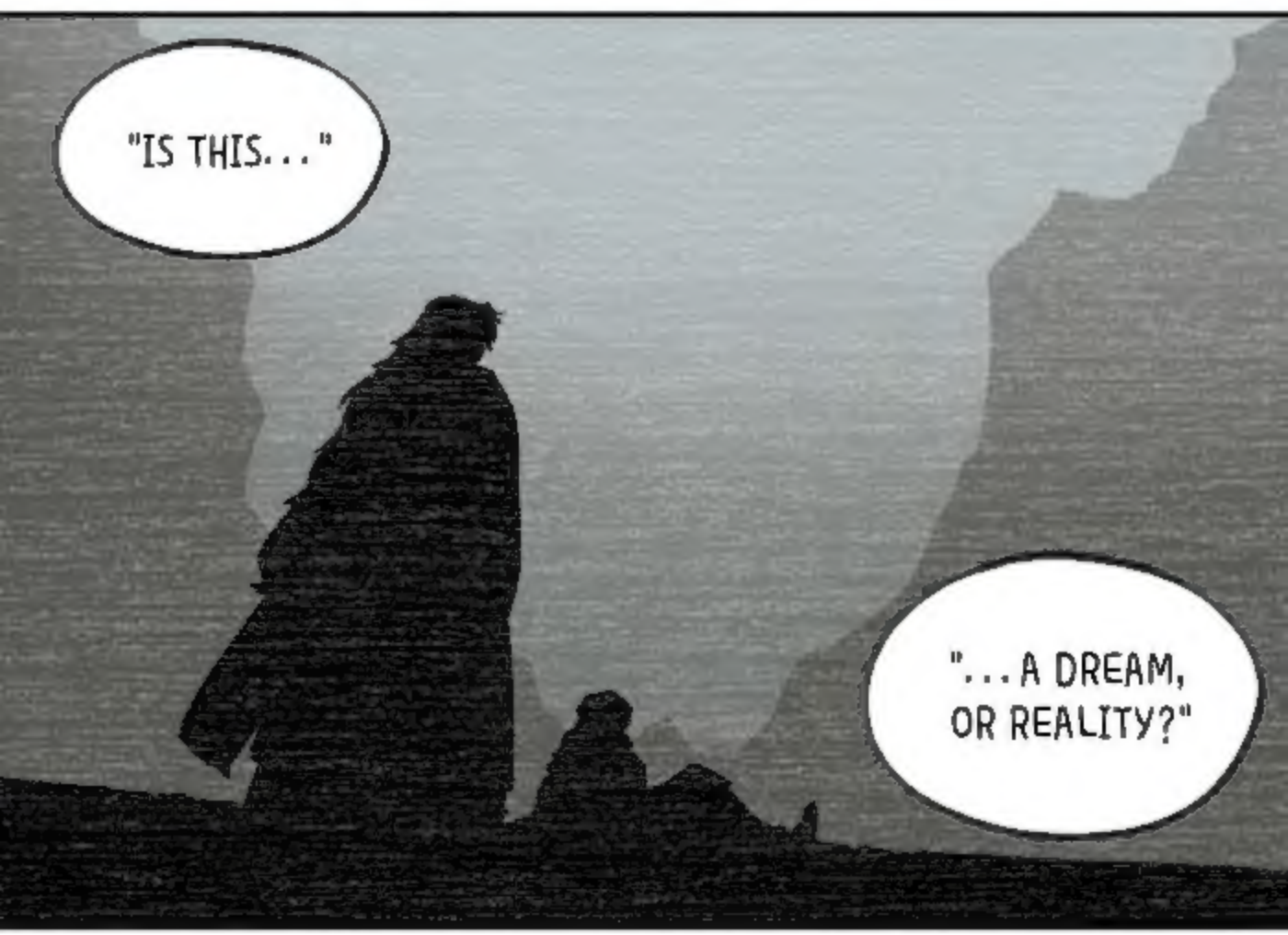

"THIS PLACE..."


"...IS A PALACE
SO MAGNIFICENT,
ONE WOULD
HARDLY BELIEVE IT WAS
UNDERWATER."

"I WAS SURE I'D DROWN, LIKE MY BROTHER."

"I'D ALWAYS BEEN TOLD THAT THE ELDEST SONS IN OUR FAMILY WERE CURSED TO DROWN AND HAUNT THE WATERS."




"IS THIS..."
"...A DREAM, OR REALITY?"

WHOA...
THEN...
THESE BOOKS ARE...

THEY'RE DIARIES.
NOD
WRITTEN BY THE HUMAN.

I THINK...
...HE WAS THE OWNER OF THIS ROOM...